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# THE COMMON CAUSE

## OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**NON-PARTY.** ***Societies and Branches in the Union* 602.** **LAW-ABIDING.**

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**The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organised into 602 Societies and Branches, under the presidentship of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN?**

## Notes and Comments.

### Physical Force and the Anti-Suffragist.

When, in the House last Friday, the cry was raised, "God save Ireland!" the reply of Mr. Redmond was, "And God save England, too." This simple prayer seems to have moved many, representing as it did the aspiration of the speakers that hatreds and jealousies and recriminations might cease. We echo it with all our hearts. We see no use in hatreds and vendettas. We cannot but remember that in his desire to attain his end, Mr. Redmond trampled ruthlessly on the aspirations of his countrywomen for freedom. We think it was an ill-deed, but we think, too, that the only way to sterilise ill-deeds is—not to forget them, because that would be to forego the wisdom of experience, but—to render good deeds in return. Women do not need preaching to in this matter. Without the hesitation of a single day, the mass of women in Ireland, as in England, turned to, when war was declared, to help their men, although these men were still denying to women the liberty they crave for themselves.

Let us remember in the day of victory, and let us make them remember, that they fought with the sacred name of Liberty on their lips, and that their women stood by them. Let us remember, and let us make them remember, that they, a volunteer army, are fighting a conscript army, whose doctrine of blood and iron is essentially the doctrine of the Anti-suffragist.

### Honourable Obligations.

Mr. Lloyd George's speech at the Queen's Hall, on September 19th had, on the sacredness of obligations, some eloquent passages which Suffragists will heartily applaud. Here is one :—

"Why is our honour as a country involved in this war? Because.

## THE WOMAN'S PART

*The national union of women's suffrage societies has suspended its ordinary political work for the time being, and is using its organisation for the relief of the sufferers from the economic and industrial dislocation caused by the war. If you want to help apply to us and we will tell you how your services can best be used.*

*N·U·W·S·S· headquarters 14 GREAT SMITH St Westminster S·W.*

*Address of nearest society*

S.N.A. X

in the first place, we are bound in an honourable obligation to defend the independence, the liberty, the integrity of a small neighbour that has lived peaceably; but she could not have compelled us, because she was weak. The man who declines to discharge his debt because his creditor is too poor to enforce it is a blackguard."

And another :—

"If there are nations that say they will only respect treaties when it is to their interest to do so, we must make it to their interest to do so for the future. What is their defence? Just look at the interview which took place between our Ambassador and great German officials when their attention was called to this treaty to which they were partners. They said: "We cannot help that." Rapidity of action was the great German asset. There is a greater asset for a nation than rapidity of action, and that is—honest dealing."

And so say all of us! Perhaps the most effective passage was the following, and it embodies what Suffragists have been saying ever since January, 1913 :—

"It is now the interest of Prussia to break the Treaty, and she has done it. (Shame.) Well, why? She avowed it with cynical contempt for every principle of justice. She says treaties only bind you when it is to your interest to keep them. "What is a treaty?" says the German Chancellor. "A scrap of paper." Have you any five-pound notes about you? (Laughter.) I am not calling for them. (Renewed laughter.) Have you any of those neat little Treasury £1 notes? (Laughter.) If you have, burn them; they are only "scraps of paper." (Applause.) What are they made of? Rags. (Laughter.) What are they worth? The whole credit of the British Empire."

It was only a few months ago that politicians were arguing with Suffragists that pledges *could* not be kept if they were inconvenient to the party which made them. "Rapidity of action was the great Irish asset." Home-rulers were taking no risks. Suffragists demurred to this political morality, and were told with some scorn that they showed their political ignorance. We preferred then, as we prefer now, the political doctrine that scraps of paper, even if made of rags, stand for the whole credit of the man or the party or the nation which issues them.

### The Girl He Left Behind Him.

Nothing that has happened lately in Parliament will give greater satisfaction than the decision to raise the scale of the separation allowances of soldiers' wives, to make them payable weekly through the post office, and to extend allowances under certain conditions to other dependents, and to the families of sailors. We don't admit that the scale is what it ought to be, but it is an improvement; we hope that the young wives of soldiers will take note for the future that the Government does not provide for more than four children to a family. It is obvious that if men will not pay for more than four children, women have a right to refuse to have more than four.

Although we do not like the way it is being given, yet we are heartily glad that, owing to the generosity of doctors and pharmacists, the dependents of soldiers and sailors serving with the colours are to have free medical attendance and drugs. The cost of medicine and appliances is to be defrayed from the Prince of Wales's Fund. We object to this because we have always held that the sick insurance of the wives and families of men was as much a State affair as the sick insurance of wage-earners. Taxes, not charity, should pay for these things.

### Womanly Work.

Several schemes are on foot for sending women's hospitals to the front. They are, doubtless, excellent; but members of the National Union will naturally wish to support the scheme of one of the Federations in the Union—namely, the Scottish Federation—for which Dr. Elsie Inglis appeals. (See page 454.) The more competent women there are doing this very womanly work, the better it will be done.

### Chivalry.

M. Gustave Hervé, the well-known French Socialist, has commented on the German barbarities in the following noble terms :—

"How shall we retaliate? When we enter Germany, I hope General Joffre will issue a proclamation reminding everybody concerned that to the soldiers of the Allies the lives of women, children, and non-combatants are sacred. When we are before Cologne our 75 (the deadly 3¼ inch French field gun) must be told—our soldiers do not need the reminder—that Cologne contains one of the Seven Wonders of the World, which must not be touched. And at Munich, Dresden, and Berlin a guard of honour must be placed before every library, museum, and art gallery.

"Our conduct in Germany must be so different to that of the Germans in Belgium and France that the very stones will recognise that our victory is the victory of civilisation.

"I would not send the masterpieces of German art to Louvain, but I would rebuild her University out of funds contributed by every country but Germany, and stock it with treasures from every land but Germany, and found a Chair of International Law to be filled by a Belgian or English jurist, who would each year deliver a lecture on International Law and Respect for Treaty Rights!"

# In Parliament.

### The Home Rule Act.

On September 15th, when Mr. Asquith had declared the intention of the Government with regard to the Home Rule Bill, Mr. Bonar Law accused him of having broken his pledges, and of having said, in effect, "Circumstances have so altered, that it is inconvenient to fulfil the pledge, and therefore he is justified in breaking the pledge." Mr. Bonar Law likened the action of the Prime Minister to that of the German Emperor with regard to his obligations of honour.

On Friday, September 18th, the Home Rule Bill received the Royal Assent, the House of Commons joining in singing "God Save the King," occupants of the Press and other Galleries standing. A member cried "God save Ireland," to which Mr. Redmond responded, "And God save England too."

### Increased Separation Allowances.

On September 17th, Mr. Asquith announced increased allowances for wives as follows :—

| | New Scale. s. d. | Old Scale. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| Wife ... ... ... ... ... | 12 6 | 11 1 |
| Wife, with 1 child ... ... | 15 0 | 12 10 |
| Wife, with 2 children ... ... | 17 6 | 14 7 |
| Wife, with 3 children ... ... | 20 0 | 16 4 |
| Wife, with 4 children ... ... | 22 0 | 17 6 |

"The London allowance of 3s. 6d. will remain unaltered, subject to present conditions.

We propose also to deal with the case of relatives—such as mothers and sisters—who are dependent upon unmarried soldiers at the front. In cases where the soldier makes an allotment to such a dependent the State will supplement it by a proportionate allowance.

The Government are of opinion that the machinery of the Old-Age Pensions Committee is most suitable for this purpose.

As regards the Navy, it has been decided to grant separation allowances to wives and children, conditional upon a minimum allotment being made. The details of the scheme will be announced as soon as possible.

In both cases these allowances will be payable weekly through the Post Office as from October 1st.

The question of pensions, which is of considerable complexity, is still under consideration, but the Government will make public their decision on this point at the earliest possible moment."

The date upon which these allowances will come into force is given as October 1st, but we are warned that they may not be available until October 12th.

In reply to a question from Mr. C. E. Price, Mr. Asquith said that for the purpose of payment four children "is treated as the maximum."

The new scale applies to *all wives* as soon as they are separated from their husbands.

# State Recognition of Sailors' Wives.

There is a hoary saying about sailors having *a wife in every port*, of which the inner meaning, so far as the Senior Service in Great Britain is concerned, was that the State did not recognise that Jack had a wife at all. To the War Office, a soldier is either married or single. If he is married, the State takes official cognisance of the fact, and acknowledges the existence of the wife. But to the Admiralty the sailor was a sailor, and matrimony, as such, a non-existent condition. Now this is all changed, and the State is to acknowledge the sailor's wife by giving her a separation allowance. The thing is a victory over which all women, especially Suffragists, should rejoice. It means not only the difference between penury and modest comfort in the present crisis for thousands of sailors' wives, but a great bulwark against immorality in the future; for it is surely certain that British people will not permit their sailors' wives to revert to the old nebulous condition when the war is over. The press is on the watch. Suffragists must keep women on the watch too.

Suffragists have been very hard at work in a certain big English city, where the local Society of the National Union had the privilege of organising the machinery of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, backed up by the invaluable co-operation of many who were not Suffragists, and the satisfaction of seeing it work more smoothly than in any other big town in England. One of the Suffragist workers, whose particular duty it was to extricate sailors' wives from the multitudinous difficulties in which fate and their own persistence involved them, is a sailor's daughter herself, and her remark that the State recognition of sailors' wives had made her feel two inches taller and happier than she had been since the war

started, is an illuminating little sidelight on the significance and importance of the Government step.

She gave some interesting details of the work done in this great city, and of the difference the Government recognition would make. In this port they had about 600 visitors working on about 8,000 cases. Under ordinary circumstances, the soldier's wife got her allotment paper and her separation allowance paper together. The official "ring paper" has a note on it that it cannot be used as security. A soldier's wife cannot mortgage her separation allowance to the pawnbroker. But a sailor's wife was only a sailor's affair. Her husband was unofficially encouraged by his captain to allot some portion of his pay to somebody—this was inculcating thrift, an excellent thing in a sailor. The sailor generally gave the paymaster his wife's name and address, with the amount he wished to have deducted from his pay, and this was remitted direct to the wife in the form of a postal order. The sailor did not have to pay poundage on this; here was definite official encouragement to be thrifty. The sailor's wife's allotment paper had no little notice on it about security. The State, having given the sailor facilities to save up his pay by having it remitted by the paymaster in his ship to somebody or something, washed its hands of the matter. The person to whom he chose to allot the money was at liberty to use the scrap of paper as security. Hence, what often happened was this: the sailor's wife found herself hard up before the end of the month. In her possession she had a letter from her husband, telling her the amount he proposed to allot her. We will say it was ten shillings. She went to the pawnbroker and borrowed eight shillings on the security of the allotment paper. When the time came for her to claim the ten shillings from the post office, she borrowed ten shillings for half an hour from a neighbour or a publican, redeemed her allotment paper from the pawnshop at the price of ten shillings, took it with the postal order to the post office, and drew the alloted ten shillings which she could only draw on presentation of the paper, and then returned the borrowed ten shillings to her neighbour. By that time the original eight shillings borrowed on the security of the allotment paper was probably spent, and the whole process would begin over again.

The Suffragist who is a sailor's daughter was informed by a pawnbroker that he made £300 per annum profit on these little transactions with sailors' wives, and that during the war he looked to make at least a thousand. Twenty-five per cent. per mensem was certainly good business, from his point of view. State recognition of sailors' wives means that the sailor will be encouraged by the State to increase his allotment, since the State separation allowance will be based on his own estimate of his wife's needs. Her "ring paper" will no longer be any security for the pawnbroker. It will be a Government document bearing a notification that it cannot be held in pledge. The pawnbrokers will suffer in pocket, and nobody will be very sorry for them. As for the sailor's wife, she also will benefit largely by the new regulation, to come into force on October 1st, that separation allowances will be payable weekly. The temptation to go to the pawnbroker will be lessened considerably, together with the removal of the facilities to ruin herself that he was able to offer her.

From the point of view of morality, the State recognition of the existence of his wife will be a check on the sailor. The paymaster will be no longer a friendly medium, encouraging thrift, personally assisting Jack to help his wife. He will be the State's representative, authoritatively reminding Jack that he has *a* wife in *one* port, *recognised by Government*, the appointed and proper person to receive an allotment from his pay, plus a State separation allowance. That is, of course, if the regulation stands when the war is done. At the present moment, nobody wishes to suggest that Jack needs any urging to make provision for his wife. Most of the misery and destitution among sailors' wives since war broke out has been caused by the ordinary mechanical difficulties accompanying an allotment of pay by a man stationed in the middle of the North Sea in a naval war to a woman living in an obscure street in some British town. In some cases he has simply forgotten. In many cases it is permissible to assume that the papers never reached her. Now that her existence is officially recognised by the State, and that the State has made up its mind to help her financially, it is reasonable to expect that every woman who has given up the man who supports her for active service in her country's defence will be cared for and saved from destitution—the least that she has a right to expect from it.

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## Bernhardiism in England.

Recent articles which have appeared in this paper on the war recall singularly noble words in a letter written to *The Times* of September 10th: "What we perhaps most need to bear in mind is that Prussian ideals are not confined to Prussia. We should gain nothing, and the world would lose much, if we were to shatter militarism in Germany only to find it enthroned at home."

How deeply this warning is needed may be felt on reading "the book of the moment," a book that has gone through six editions in as many weeks, Professor Cramb's *England and Germany*. Cramb had the laudable intention of explaining, without disguise and without malice, the ideal of militarist Germany, as conceived by Treitschke and Bernhardi, and of fortifying his own nation to oppose it.

That ideal he has set out with great clearness and force; we can see, in his pages, how strongly it is based on a few simple, insidious, and terrible doctrines. It is the duty, so they teach, of every vigorous nation to expand, if necessary, by force; to impose, if necessary, by the sword, its culture and its views, "its will on the wills of other men." The increase of power is the aim of every State, and while the State stands supreme above the individual, nothing stands above the State. A true citizen, therefore, must consider nothing but the advancement of his own country, and if he is ready to give his own life for her he is quite justified in taking the lives of others.

Such a doctrine, it is plain, in spite of noble and even heroic elements, leads directly either to the world-tyranny of one nationality, or to the internecine warfare of many. We do well to oppose it, but what is the value of our opposition if we slip into an acceptance of all its principles? Most deeply must we regret that nowhere does the writer condemn this ideal in itself; on the contrary, he writes as though the only real objection was that it interfered with *us*, that it was held by *Germany*, when it might be held more strongly by *England*. But some of us have been proud of England just because we hoped that she believed in fair-play and generosity, cared for the rights of smaller nations, saw something in the universe greater even than her own success, saw justice and mercy and human sympathy. In so far as the pursuit of her own self-interest has obscured this ideal, and often no doubt it has done so, we have sorrowed and felt shame. We cannot for a moment subscribe to the doctrine that "no free State sees anything higher than itself." In so far as it does not, it is not free, but the slave of an ambition that has grown blind and mean. Patriotism, once divine, becomes demoniacal if it cannot face the simple fact that the Fatherland may sometimes be in the wrong. Mazzini, most ardent of patriots, knew this; knew that the greatness of a nation lay in its mission to humanity, and that it must be judged by that. Therefore he had room in his heart for what another noble patriot, Walt Whitman in America, has called his dearest dream, "good-will between the people of all nations." But Professor Cramb allows himself to say that "the friendship of nations is an empty name" (132-3); that he "never can understand what meaning that kind of talk has—'friendly rivalry,' 'generous emulations.'" How could he, if he limits his ideal to the "world-predominance" of his own country?

Now, before our eyes, in a welter of hell, lies the result to which this teaching leads. Writing before the event, Cramb speaks, almost complacently, of the appalling prospect as of a glorious conflict on which "Odin, the War-God," might gaze with joy, "smiling upon the heroism of the struggle." And smiling also, we ask, with our eyes on fact and not on rhetoric, upon the devastated homes and the outraged women? If "the struggle for power" is really a law "obvious, universal, and inevitable in its application," if there is no escape to wider, safer, more human standards, then "the purpose and end of existence" may well appear to us, as Cramb informs us it did to the statesmen of this merciless ambition, as nothing better than "a hieroglyph written in mud."

F. Melian Stawell.

* *Germany and England*, by J. A. Cramb. (Murray. 2s. 6d.).

### Books and Pamphlets Received.

Housing and Health. By Tom Myers. (National Labour Press. 1d.)

Parentage and Dangerous Employments.—Lead Poisoning. By Frances Swiney. (League of Isis. 2½d.)

Home Nursing. By Isabel Macdonald. (Macmillan. 2s. 6d. net.)

The Housewife's Book of Simple Cookery. By E. L. Crittale. (St. Catherine Press. 1s. net.)

Industrial Training. By N. B. Dearle, M.A. (P. S. King & Son. 10s. 6d. net.)

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## A NATIONAL UNION ORGANISER AT THE FRONT.

News of Miss Thurstan has at last reached us. She was taken prisoner when the Germans entered Brussels, and a letter dated September 4th has just arrived. Miss Thurstan is very well, though very tired and very hungry. Neither nurses nor patients ever get enough food.

Miss Thurstan had organised in Brussels a hospital of 150 beds, and was then told to send three nurses to Marcelline, near Charleroi, about thirty-five miles from Brussels, and almost on the frontier. She decided on going herself, and with two nurses went by automobile, right through the German lines. They passed through Charleroi, where whole streets of houses had been burnt to the ground and pillaged, and reached a building which was put up ten years ago for a hospital but never finished. At first there was no bread, no butter, no milk—except for the worst patients—no meat, nothing but potatoes, leeks, and beer, and of these supplies the 2,000 Germans quartered in the place on more than one occasion took all the potatoes and vegetables cooked for the nurses and patients, leaving them only the water in which they had been boiled. Miss Thurstan says: "How we do long for the things the English working parties are making! We have hardly any sheets or shirts or ward furniture. If it had not been for my own private supplies, we should have been nearly starved." Up to the time of writing, all the patients were German or French; seventy wounded were brought in the day Miss Thurstan arrived, most of them very bad indeed. All through the night of September 2nd firing went on without ceasing within eight miles of the hospital, and the next morning the German Colonel came, in a great hurry, and said all Germans were to go away at once. An old Leipzig motor bus had been requisitioned to take the men away in batches, and though Miss Thurstan begged that some who were quite unfit to be moved—one, for example, with a bullet in his chest and pneumonia, and another who had had his leg amputated above the knee barely twelve hours before—should be left, they had to go, with the result that one died of hæmorrhage at the station in about five minutes, and three others died on the way to the ambulance train.

Miss Thurstan says they get no news at all, no newspaper, no train, no post, no telegraph—only what they actually see; but they realise that they are very badly needed, and the wounded are so glad to have them and so grateful for all they are doing. The nurses are overworked and underfed, and have a lot to put up with, yet they never grumble. Quite the worst part is hearing and knowing nothing at all.

## WIFE AS "LOCUM."

Dr. Grace Giffen Dundas, wife of the Medical Officer of Health of Ramsgate, has been appointed to act as Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer during her husband's absence on active service with the Territorials.

# Correspondence.

Editor's Note.

*A large amount of correspondence is unadvoidably held over. It is, perhaps, necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns. So far as space will allow, we will gladly publish letters on matters of public interest. We venture to suggest, however, that controversy is far more interesting and illuminating if controversialists will take for granted that those with whom they disagree are also seeking for truth and justice.*

### THE NEED FOR MEDICAL WOMEN.

Madam,—I am venturing to draw attention to the present need for the services of more medical women, and the fact that this need is likely to be accentuated in the future by the immediate decrease in the number of young men entering the Universities.

It is always surprising to discover how indifferent the rest of the world is about the particular subject to which one's own thoughts are mainly directed, and so, perhaps, it is only a matter of surprise to myself that, even at this hour many people show a complete ignorance of the work of women in medicine. They still do not understand,

(1) That the legal status of all registered medical practitioners (men or women) is the same.

(2) That the preliminary education, as shown by certificates accepted by the University of London or the General Medical Council, must be the same for all men and women who seek to enter the medical profession.

(3) That all the Universities, with the exception of Oxford and Cambridge, and all the other licensing bodies, admit women to the examinations in medicine.

(4) That the course and length of training in medicine, and consequently the expenses incurred, are the same for men and women.

(5) That there are about 1,000 women on the British Medical Register.

(6) That a large number of appointments, in addition to private practice, are open to medical women.

(7) That medical women have from the first endeavoured to maintain that the same fees must be paid for the same services to both medical men and medical women.

(8) That in London alone there are five hospitals entirely officered by medical women, and others are found at Brighton and Edinburgh.

Even when these salient points are comprehended, it is often unrealised that a great deal of medical work depends upon the services of women, and it is certain that this must be so increasingly in the near future. The hospitals and infirmaries are already short of resident medical officers, and these posts, to a large extent, are filled by young qualified men. We cannot suppose that the entry of young men at the medical schools during the coming year or two will be large. It remains, therefore, for the well-educated woman to take this opportunity to prepare herself for work for which the capable, healthy, well-balanced Englishwoman is so admirably fitted.

The question of expense is naturally a serious one. There are Scholarships to be obtained at some of the Medical Schools, and at the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women there are several endowments to assist women to study medicine. These sums are, unfortunately, all too few, and cannot be compared with the large endowments at some of the older and richer schools for men. It is a grave mistake for a woman to study medicine who has not arranged for a sufficient income throughout the course to put her beyond anxiety. The course is long and arduous, and absorbing in its interest. A student must be well housed and fed, and suitably clothed, in addition to being able to pay her fees and buy books and instruments. While we want more medical women, we also want endowment for the London School of Medicine for Women, and more scholarships for the students. In the past, devoted and generous friends have not been lacking for the encouragement and assistance of medical education for women, as the existence of this school, and a list of benefactors to be seen on its walls, testify. We must earnestly hope that women will be ready to continue this support, and to find the means to make the opportunities given to women medical students adequate in all directions.

Louie M. Brooks.
(Secretary and Warden, London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women.)

### WOMEN'S PEACE MOVEMENT.

Madam,—Will you allow me to protest against the letter of N. O'Shea in last week's Common Cause? We Englishwomen who are honoured in having fathers, brothers, husbands, and sons fighting and dying for our country will, I think, not readily agree with your correspondent's plea that we should combine "to discuss plans and schemes to bring about an early cessation of hostilities." Surely we had better leave these matters in the hands of our Army and Navy at this time when our fate still hangs in the balance? Kitchener has reiterated that the struggle will be a long one, and that it will entail great sacrifices. His is the immediate business and the work for many months to come. This is not the moment in which to advocate the laying down of arms. Let us talk of peace when Germany, and all the horror it stands for, is defeated. We women, at least, need not strengthen the hands of our enemies.

A Member of the N.U.W.S.S.

Madam,—While in full sympathy with the spirit that prompted Miss N. O'Shea's letter, published in your edition of September 18th, may I be allowed to make a further suggestion in view of your editorial on this matter. I am quite convinced that all women are not at present prepared to work, or even join an organised body, for the purpose of peace propaganda. To be successful in such an undertaking it would be essential that a large body of organised opinion be brought to bear internationally. Can we claim that large body of organised opinion amongst the women of the nations now engaged in warfare?

We Suffragists of Great Britain appear to have a hard battle to fight in order to gain individual liberty of expression. We have, however, to a certain extent gained a hold on the thought of the nation. Can we say the same of our sisters in Germany—the women whose "place is the home"—where the women's movement is comparatively in its infancy? It would seem that we Suffragists are not as yet strong enough internationally nor sufficiently united on this subject to speak with one voice.

I see also another difficulty in working this peace movement on sex lines. Men who are as keen as women on peace propaganda do not always realise that the women's movement, and particularly the organised Suffrage Societies, are part of a world movement for the emancipation of both sexes, and that men and women are equally welcomed as members, and when it is suggested that these organised bodies shall rise up and declare against war they are made to feel an unwarranted sex exclusion. Therefore, I would suggest, knowing that amongst the organised Suffragists there is a strong opinion in favour of peace propaganda, that the machinery of those organisations be used to form a separate body, the sole purpose of which would be the establishing of "Peace on earth, and good-will towards men," that to this body be welcomed both sexes. This suggestion would meet the difficulty of the Suffragist who is opposed at present to active peace propaganda, and who would object to support an organisation undertaking this work, and it would also meet the objection that such a movement was being worked on sex lines.

I would suggest for the present while the financial difficulty is so great that no definite subscription should be asked, and while the dominant military element is in evidence that propaganda be carried on by circulation of literature. The people need to be educated as to the causes of war. And I would further suggest that Mr. G. H. Perris be asked to write a condensation of *The War Traders* in order that much of the information contained therein might be gained for a few pence. This should be translated into as many languages as necessary. I think with Miss O'Shea that to-day and not to-morrow is the time for action, and if the National Union, in conjunction with

other Suffrage organisations in their many centres of activity, can set on foot at home and abroad a permanent growing body of educated public opinion, this would, I think, fulfil the desires of those of us who are so keen, and at the same time those members who are not in sympathy would realise that the Suffrage organisations would not be taking any permanent active measures.

EMILY A. JONES.

6, Thames Street, Hampton.

## FIRELESS COOKERS.

MADAM,—This Institute has been lent by its proprietor, Mr. Dickson, to the London Society for Women's Suffrage, to be used for the good of young unemployed girls, and I am, for the present, in charge of it. Some girls have been set to make the useful objects known variously as "Fireless Cookers," "Self-Cookers," "Hay Boxes," or "Hot Boxes," and some of these are now ready for sale at a lower rate than that charged elsewhere. I hasten to add that the rate is properly calculated on a commercial basis, and would be thoroughly remunerative if we had a sufficient demand. Prices vary according to the cooking vessel included; this can be of the enamelled ware or fireproof earthenware in different sizes. Five shillings will provide a stout box and enamelled cooking pot; a similar box with a tin pot costs 3s. 9d. A sample box is on view at the office of the London Society, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

These boxes make a considerable saving in fuel; food cooked in them cannot burn, and such things as stews or fruit are better when done thus than in the ordinary way. A removable cushion can be added, and the box then makes a comfortable seat. The trade is practically a new one; nobody else is manufacturing hot boxes of this description or this price, and we look to find our first market for them among Suffragists.

CLEMENTINA BLACK.

Dickson Institute, Blackstock Road,
Finsbury Park.

## CLOTHES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

MADAM,—With reference to clothes for children I write to make a suggestion: As a school manager of long standing, I have for some time wished that a school uniform could be introduced into elementary schools, not by compulsion, but by persuasion. Nor should I wish it to be identical for all schools. But it seems to me that this present crisis, when children will be needing clothes and women are needing work, is the moment when well thought-out models of clothing for school children, in carefully standardised sizes, should be taken in hand. They should be simple, healthy, washable, and designed on such lines that easy letting-out for growth should be possible.

Made in large quantities, they might be made very cheaply, and since a reformation in the clothing of multitudes of boys and girls is urgently needed, lasting good might be done.

I shall be very glad if any members of Education Committees or School Managers, or anyone interested in this subject, would communicate with me and make suggestions. Address, Rotherhill, Stedham, Midhurst.

R. E. WILLS (Mrs.)

## THE ART OF TOY-MAKING.

MADAM,—At a time when the capture of the enemy's trade is a popular theme, it is just to remember the real superiority of many things produced in Germany. The toys, for instance, are often exceedingly well-contrived, and there are kinds of rough painted pottery which we have shown no ability to make in England.

The state of war, indeed, has no special bearing upon the matter; for it cannot be urged that we have been prevented in times of peace, unless by the deadness of our industrial system.

The truth is that we need an impetus from art, more than from trade, or even from war, if a permanently characteristic product is to result.

JAMES GUTHRIE.

## TRAINING FOR SOCIAL WORKERS.

MADAM,—Several Societies now organising women workers (among them the London Society for Women's Suffrage) feel that in view of the strenuous times ahead of us this winter every worker should consider it part of her "service" to endeavour to fit herself in every possible way for the work to come. As a preliminary, they have therefore asked Professor Urwick, head of the Social Service Department School of Economics, to arrange a course of six lectures, to be held at the School of Economics, Clare Market, Strand. The course will deal with the actually existing machinery for dealing with distress in London—both Municipal and voluntary—and how to make use of it, the Government Departments and their scope and need of voluntary co-operation, the new Committees and their work and that also of the big charitable agencies. It will also include the way to treat cases of all kinds, and will aim at being of the greatest practical use. The School has most kindly consented to charge the very low fee of 3s. on promise of support from the Suffrage and other Societies, so it is rather a point of honour with us to make the lectures known as widely as possible.

The lectures will be given on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning October 12th at 5 o'clock. The lecturers will be Mr. C. M. Lloyd and Mrs. Rackham.

It is much hoped that workers will arrange where possible to get off early on those afternoons, the time to be made up afterwards by the saving in future efficiency.

G. K. SCOVELL.

## "THE COMMON CAUSE."

### UNEMPLOYED WOMEN AS SELLERS.

The idea of employing out-of-work women at a wage to sell the paper is catching on well. South Shields and Norwich are developing this scheme. In London the following promises have been sent in response to Mrs. Fyffe's offer: Mr. and Mrs. Greg, £1 monthly; Mrs. Rufus D. Pullar, £1 monthly; Miss Hoc, 10s. monthly; "A Worker," 2s. 6d. monthly. A list of important London pitches is kept at the shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." Office, and we can do with any number more of volunteers or paid sellers. One tells us that at a Hyde Park Gate, last Saturday, she sold eighteen copies in half an hour; so it is worth doing. Every seller should be provided with a poster (to be obtained with the papers), which, when pasted on cardboard, can be slung on the wrist.

### DEPOTS WANTED.

One lady in the City of London has obtained permission to use her office as a depôt for distributing the paper to City sellers. Here copies can be obtained and returns and money received. The address will be given to anyone applying to THE COMMON CAUSE Office, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi. This is a way of making selling easy, which we hope greatly to develop. We particularly need a depôt near (1) Hyde Park Corner, (2) Marble Arch, (3) High Street Kensington Station. People would sell far more than they do if they could obtain copies of the paper on Saturdays and Sundays especially.

## NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS.

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.W. it was resolved that the annual meeting of the National Council of Women should be postponed, and that the present office-bearers should remain in office for the ensuing year. It was also decided not to hold the proposed Conference in Bristol in October. A Consultative Committee of Relief Organisations has been formed by the N.U.W.W., and will meet fortnightly at the office of the Union, Parliament Mansions, Victoria-street, S.W.

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Literary Contributions *should be addressed to the Editor,* The Common Cause, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. The Editor, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter, and no manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.*

All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

**The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.**

## Wives.

The custom of considering women as appendages to men has its serious disadvantages. A very complete illustration of this occurs in an account which appeared in *The Daily News* of September 18th, of what was happening at Aldershot. Here, it seems, the War Office required the married quarters for the new army. The wives of men who had gone to the front were therefore notified that they must leave by September 23rd, and various sums of money (£3 for the wife, £2 for the first child, and £1 for every subsequent child) were allotted to the women to pay for removal, furnishing, &c. Undoubtedly, this sudden compulsory eviction from their homes was an added hardship to women already hard hit; but it may have been necessary—we will not go into that. The War Office seems to have had some sympathetic realisation of the dangers and trials to which these women would be subject, turned adrift so suddenly to look for homes, and it was recommended that they should "remove from the temptations and the expensive living associated with garrison towns." Unfortunately, the War Office failed to make clear to the soldiers' wives what they were expected to do, and what they had a right to, and the usual committees of untrained ladies, "officers' wives," stepped in and created misery and misunderstanding. The wife of an officer was interviewed, and this is what she is reported to have said:—

"I have almost wept myself, when I have been among these poor people. Torn by anxiety as to the fate of their husbands, almost starving at times from non-payment of money which is theirs of right, they are now being driven into hysterics by tactless unsympathetic ladies who are misinterpreting entirely the War Office instructions. I have advised and helped many families to return to their native towns, but where that is impossible it is absolutely wicked that the poor creatures should be badgered and driven from pillar to post by ladies who are suffering from an attack of nerves.

"What is wanted," she added, "is that the War Office or the Government should appoint immediately officials to come and reassure these poor people, and at the same time remove some of the misconceptions from which the various committees appear to be suffering."

We take this situation as our text, because it is typical of the way so much is done that relates to women. Men's affairs are governed by men more or less trained to their work, responsible, fully informed, and *paid*. When, in the course of this work, these responsible, trained, and paid men find themselves necessarily dealing with women and children, they feel (and rightly feel) that they are not quite the proper persons, and they cast about for women who will help them to deal with women. Whom do they depute? Not responsible, trained, and paid women, but—wives! Irresponsible, untrained, and honorary women, who may do their best, but whose best is bound to be bad.

It is worth thinking about, because the same mistaken policy is found everywhere. Men teachers and caretakers and clergymen are all expected to supplement the trained and salaried work they do with the untrained and unsalaried work of their female relatives; these untrained and unsalaried workers always deal with the women and children, with the results we see. There is at least some selection of men for the work men do and are paid to do. But what selection is there of the unpaid women? They are the wives of men! That is all the selection! Can anyone pretend that young officers choose their wives with

any consideration whatever for the kind of work they may be expected to do? Of course they don't, and no one would wish them to do so. But women are getting sick of having their affairs muddled by "wives." It does not in the least follow that because a permanent Government official, with the experience of years of specialised work, is the best man to carry out plans for such work in so far as they affect men, his wife is the best woman to carry out these plans in so far as they affect women. Yet all over the place, on innumerable committees, we see ladies put in responsible positions to which they have absolutely no claim, except that they are wives of their husbands.

If, indeed, a man is going to insist that women are to be ruled by his wife, he will have to leave it to women to select that wife, and the claims of the home will have to give way to public claims. One can reason with even an obstinate man; but it is impossible to reason with a "wife," who, knowing nothing herself, repeats by rote the opinions and sometimes the prejudices of her husband.

A Wife for Twenty-Five Years.

## The Queen's Work for Women Fund.

Already a great deal of solid work has been done by the Central Committee for the Employment of Women, but the urgent need at the present time is for more funds. The task before the Committee is not the alleviation of temporary distress by a system of doles, but a far greater undertaking—the systematic endowment of woman's place in industry. In the first place, women must, as far as possible, be kept at work in their own trades. In the second, fresh trades must be set on foot.

The function of the Executive of the Central Committee is to arrange for the distribution of work, so that there may not be too much in one place and not enough in another—overtime worked in one factory, while in another the employees are on half-time. Orders are found, and placed in the right quarters, and the co-operation of local authorities and employers obtained. Offers have been made by certain factory owners to lend their factories, making no charge except for the actual material used. Some have offered to pay rent and light, and rates and taxes in order to keep their staff together. Empty houses, too, have been lent as workrooms.

The work is carried on from three houses—Wimborne House; where Miss MacArthur is at the head; Foley House, where Lady Roxburgh presides; and 33, Portland Place, which has been lent by Lord Blyth. Here all cheques are sent, and also gifts in kind, for the benefit of the fund, some of them accompanied by very touching letters. The money comes mostly from women, and many who cannot afford to give money are sending jewellery, curios, and other valuables to be sold for the benefit of the fund. But to Suffragists such sacrifices are nothing new.

Mr. Clayton, the Secretary of the Fund, attends also to the working of the Mayoress's schemes, and those of Urban District Councils. There are now several hundred auxiliary branches all over the country helping to collect funds, and practical instructions have been sent out to all these as to the best way of setting about the work.

### New Trades for Women.

One department of the Central Committee is devoted to finding out new trades for women. But to start an entirely fresh trade, or even to revive an old one, is a matter which takes time and requires a considerable amount of money.

With a view to furthering this object the Wholesale Textile Association has been holding a series of sectional meetings, under the auspices of Sir George Pragnell, to discuss how far it may be possible to secure certain work which has hitherto been done for the most part in Germany and Austria. Among the articles which, it is thought, might be more extensively manufactured here are lace, ribbons, gloves, mantles, costumes, flowers, feathers, toys and games—a pleasing variety, affording considerable scope for taste and skill. But Sir George Pragnell considers that "immediate work for women in these trades is difficult, and immediate results impracticable." The necessary machinery must first be obtained, and also expert workers to train the beginners. In the case of some kinds of toys, the higher cost of labour here than in the countries where they have up till now been manufactured would make it difficult to produce them at a profit. Then, too, there is a scarcity of girls who know anything at all about certain branches of toy-making, and the proper materials are not readily procured. For instance, the right kind of china for dolls' faces has not yet been made in this country.

It has been suggested that the Queen's Work for Women Fund might be used to apprentice promising girls to the toy trade, and that home and village industries might be started; but though certain developments are being discussed, there are so many points to consider that the plans of the Committee are not yet matured.

In the meantime, several workrooms have already been started by the Central Committee. At one, not far from Wimborne House, some sixty women and girls, for the most part dressmakers and milliners, are learning to make shirts, a contract for army shirts having been obtained. Some of them, used to handling chiffon and other delicate materials, find the thick flannel "queer stuff to work," but under a competent forewoman—who has run a tailoring business of her own—they are getting into their new trade very quickly, and seem to enjoy the work. They appreciate the fine view over the Green Park, and also the good dinners prepared by an organiser of the National Federation of Women Workers, who has developed a strong talent for cooking. An empty house in Piccadilly has been lent for the purposes of workrooms, and in the big basement-kitchen the girls have their mid-day meal. One of them confided to the manageress that she tells her friends that she "dines two or three times a week in Piccadilly now."

A scheme has also been started for providing maternity outfits, children's cradles, &c.; but this will be dealt with in another article.

To a reflective observer, the one thing that seems necessary is that people should have adaptable and swiftly moving minds to meet the present emergencies. If, for instance, the right sort of china cannot be obtained immediately for doll's heads, that is no reason at all why new and ravishing dolls should not be made from other obtainable materials. And this is a parable.

## A SCALE OF COSTS.

The following scale has been drawn up by the New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage as a guidance for those people employing needlewomen:—

| Garment. | Yards of Material. | Price of Making. | Price Complete. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Red Cross Frocks, made to measure or fitted ... | 7 ... | 6s. 6d. ... | 12s. 11d. |
| Red Cross Overalls— | | | |
| Regulation pattern ... | 7½ ... | 4s. 6d. ... | 10s. 11d. |
| Shirts ... ... ... | 3¼ ... | 1s. 6d. | according to material. |
| Night Shirts ... ... | 3½ ... | 1s. 9d. ... | ditto |
| Pyjamas ... ... | 5 ... | 3s. 0d. ... | ditto |

Red Cross aprons (Regulation pattern), price complete, 2s. 11½d.; white sleevelets, 1s. 0½d.; Balaclava helmets, 5s. 11d. and 4s. 11d.; socks (hand knitted), 3s. 11d. and 3s. 3d. Ladies' dresses made by skilled workers from one guinea.

### UNEMPLOYMENT.

In his speech at Edinburgh, on September 19th, Mr. Asquith said, "Unemployment is, so far, not seriously in excess of the average." We wish this were true of women. It is not. Statistics of unemployment are mainly derived from Trade Unions, and it is notorious that masses of women workers are too poor to belong to Trade Unions. Reports from the East End of London, from Manchester and other industrial centres, prove that Mr. Samuel was right when he said in the House, as long ago as September 10th, that "unemployment is more prevalent among women that among men." Half-time (and, of course, half-pay) is reducing thousands of women to destitution.

### COUNSEL FOR THE WOMEN.

One of the difficulties which Government Departments have not yet succeeded in meeting with any thoroughness is the difficulty of letting the wives of soldiers know what is their due and how to get it. An excellent suggestion was made in a letter to *The Manchester Guardian* last week, that at every recruiting station there should be a clerk, whose business it should be to obtain from every recruit the name and address of his wife or other dependent, and send to her the exact particulars of what she ought to get. We would go further, and say that when the recruit had given the name and address, an official (preferably a woman) should call within twenty-four hours, find out the number of children, advise the woman how to get certificates (of marriage and birth), and tell her how much was due to her and how it should be paid. We still meet women who are under the delusion that wives of new recruits are not entitled to anything.

# Notes from Headquarters.

**The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.**
*President:* Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

*Hon Secretaries:*
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

*Hon. Treasurer:*
Mrs. Auerbach.

*Secretary:*
Miss Crookenden.

*Offices:* Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

## Notice: Office Hours.

Owing to the very great rush of work at the National Union, people desiring interviews can at present only be received between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

## Hyde Park Meetings.

The National Union urgently needs helpers for the Sunday afternoon meetings. These are attracting even greater crowds now than they did before the war. Women's work in a crisis appeals more to a London crowd than women's disabilities in the high days of peace, and the resultant support for Women Suffragists is correspondingly stronger. There seems to be an idea abroad that the meetings do not matter now. They do. Volunteers who will act as stewards, and others who will sell The Common Cause outside the gates, are badly needed—more especially those who can notify their intention to come beforehand, and who can be depended upon not to fail the speakers.

## Active Service League Headquarters.
## The 50, Parliament Street Shop.

The Active Service Leaguers are doing a fine variety of business at the National Union Shop. They do not claim to be universal providers, but it is a *rôle* that the public tries to foist on them, in a faith that is really sublime. Last week a notice had to be put up in the window that Belgian babies were not kept in stock, to be handed over the counter like parcels of flannelette. The demand for them is pathetic, but Mrs. Streeter, in charge of the hospitality work, is anxious to save people disappointment, if possible. The Government, which has now taken over the Belgian refugee work, is anxious only to place Belgian children in Catholic families, and, in any case, is unable to deal with individual offers of hosptiality at the moment, so great is the influx of refugees from the Continent. But the shop rises nobly to the occasion in other "lines." Last Thursday afternoon, word was brought that a girl had a chance to go to Canada on the Saturday in one of Miss Martin's parties, but only possessed the clothes she stood up in. In a few moments Miss Jetley had fitted her out with a complete trousseau from the garments in the National Union workrooms, and on Saturday she duly sailed for Canada. Last week, too, the shop has been fortunate in placing in situations as domestic workers and housekeepers quite a number of its workroom hands, all of whom express themselves as most grateful to the National Union for its help.

## Generous Offers to Officers' Daughters.

Mrs. Streeter has received some extraordinarily generous offers of hospitality during the week. No less than five headmistresses of private schools have offered to give free board and education to Belgian and French girls orphaned in the war, or to the daughters of British officers killed in action. Readers who may know of girls to whom these offers would be of real assistance are invited to write to Mrs. Streeter. She has also had an offer from a clergyman and his sister to adopt the daughter of a British officer killed in action who might be left in necessitous circumstances. The girl must not be under fifteen years of age. The National Union experience, like that of every other organisation doing relief work in any time of crisis, goes to prove that the people most in need of tactful and sympathetic help are the very last to apply for it. It generally remains for some friend to bring their circumstances to the notice of those who are willing to help them. Mrs. Streeter invites the co-operation of members of the Union in this delicate task. There is no lack of help and sympathy available.

## Figures that Speak for Themselves.

It would be interesting to have an analysis of all the wealthy women sewing for the soldiers, and of all the shirts and pyjamas (not forgetting misfits) they have made, and then to set those figures over against figures such as those Miss Clark gives, showing the former trades of the women who apply to the National Union for work. Here they are, and they tell their own tale:—

| | |
|---|---|
| West End dressmakers | 10 |
| Other ,, | 21 |
| Skirt and bodice hands | 40 |
| Blouse and lingeries hands | 6 |
| Millinery hands | 8 |
| Waistcoat makers | 9 |
| Machinists | 32 |
| Good plain needleworkers | 39 |
| Embroiderers | 7 |
| Upholsterers | 10 |
| Shirt makers | 4 |

That makes 186 professional sewing and clothes-making women out of work who have applied to this one organisation alone.

In addition to these, there are the following:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Showroom girls | 3 |
| Factory girls | 14 |
| Clerks and typists | 10 |
| Housework, charing, plain sewing | 41 |
| Miscellaneous | 26 |

There should be room for those ten clerks and typists in some of the Relief Societies' offices as substitutes for voluntary typists. It would be better relief work to save those ten typists from destitution than to save their wages for the Societies. The Societies could easily raise a few more subscriptions to pay for them.

## The Workrooms and Mending Bureau.

If the Union had more than three workrooms it could employ more people. So far, besides the women working in the shop in Parliament Street, the 14, Great Smith Street and Gayfere Street Rooms have employed twenty-four women, of whom seven have been helped to find other employment. They have made over a hundred garments, and a great deal of mending and alteration has been done in the "Menderies." Generous donations of material have been received, but the superintendents are insatiable, and still ask for more. Material given means work and wages for the women. In this way: £96 has been given for the workrooms. Thanks to generous supplies of material, only £7 3s. has been spent on buying material—hence the balance has practically all gone in wages. The garments made are being distributed through care committees, hospitals, maternity centres and settlements, and chiefly consist of children's nightgowns, combinations, knickers, bodices, and tunics, babies' flannels, women's underclothing, pyjamas, hospital shirts, cot sheets, pillow cases, quilts, &c. Another workroom for twenty girls has been opened this week in the New Kent Road.

### Pressing Needs.

Workrooms, rent free, in all parts of London.
Voluntary superintendents for them.
Material to be made up into garments for free distribution.
Money to pay wages to destitute professional sempstresses.

## Offers of Hospitality.

Mrs. Streeter, at 50, Parliament Street, would be most grateful for offers of hospitality from people living in or near London for social workers in connection with war relief.

## Kingsway Hall Meeting.

The National Union is holding a public meeting in the Kingsway Hall, on Tuesday, October 20th, at 8 p.m., on behalf of the Active Service League (founded by Mrs. Harley, Sir John French's sister), and the Queen's Work for Women Fund. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Fawcett, and Miss Margaret Ashton, Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Miss Maude Royden, and other well-known Suffragists will speak on "How Women Can Help in War-time." Tickets for reserved seats, at 5s., 2s. 6d., and 6d., can be obtained from the National Union Headquarters, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, and from the Active Service League Headquarters at 50, Parliament Street, S.W.

## Provincial Council Meeting.

The Provincial Council of the National Union will be held on Thursday, November 12th, at Wallasey, Cheshire, by kind invitation of the Wallasey and Wirral Women's Suffrage Society, and will be continued on Friday, November 13th, if necessary. The morning session will open at 10.30 a.m., the afternoon session at 2.30 p.m. Resolutions for the preliminary agenda must be despatched to the National Union Central Offices, not later than Thursday, October 8th, and the preliminary agenda will reach Societies on Tuesday, October 20th. Amendments for the final agenda must be despatched by

Friday, October 30th, and the final agenda will reach Societies on Monday, November 9th.

Each Federation of the Union is entitled to send three elected representatives, of whom one must be an officer. No proxies are permitted. Members of affiliated Societies may attend as visitors within the limits of the available accommodation. Admission by ticket only. Names of those wishing to attend must have been submitted to, and approved by the local Society before being forwarded through the Federation Secretary to Headquarters. Such applications must reach Headquarters before Friday, November 6th. The Wallasey and Wirral Society will endeavour to find hospitality for delegates only. Applications should be sent in as early as possible to Miss E. F. McPherson, 16, Newland Drive, Wallasey, Cheshire. N.B.—*Liverpool* is the station for Wallasey.

## Active Service Fund.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Already acknowledged | 1,288 | 17 | 8 |
| Mrs. Tennant (2nd Donation) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Hugh Thompson (2nd Donation) | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Pigott | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Shielmann | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Paynter | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss S. R. Praeger | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Isabel M. Hervey | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Margaret Steen | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. Gutteridge | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Beatrice Chapman | | 5 | 0 |
| Miss E. E. Bidwell | | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. J. H. Davies | | 5 | 0 |
| International Women's Relief Commitee | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss M. Bridson | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. McLantock | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss M. B. Henson | | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Hodge | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss K. P. Baster | | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. J. H. Medlyn | | 2 | 6 |
| Malton W.S.S. | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| Miss Nona Stewart | | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Edith L. Willis | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| T. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. A. N. Monkhouse | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. M. K. Richardson | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss M. D. Jordan | | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. E. A. Webster | | 1 | 0 |
| Miss Maude E. Newbigin | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Miss G. Bradford | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| West Riding Federation | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Anonymous | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss D. L. Green | | 10 | 0 |
| Miss E. D. Gibb | | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Coe | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Mary E. Jellicoe | | 4 | 0 |
| Miss Jessy L. Young | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lady Scott Moncrieff | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Eleanor Stephens | | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. W. H. Heath | | 2 | 6 |
| Mrs. E. Gamble (2nd weekly instalment) | | 1 | 0 |
| Miss A. C. Prichard | | 1 | 0 |
| Miss J. V. Mellor | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. T. M. Young | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Irwin | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dr. Mary Pirret | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss Sara Thomas | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Weiss (1st instalment) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Kitsin | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Anonymous (1st instalment) | | 15 | 0 |
| Miss Gadsden | | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Helena Sikes | | 10 | 0 |
| Miss E. C. Ashby | | 3 | 6 |
| Miss M. E. Pearson | | 2 | 6 |
| Mr. H. Wyndham Down | | 10 | 0 |
| At 50, Parliament Street— | | | |
| Miss Meeson | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Smith | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Australian | | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Baird | | 2 | 0 |
| Miss Davies | | 2 | 0 |
| Miss Jarvis | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Stuart | | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Bailley | | 1 | 0 |
| Commandant Manning | | 2 | 0 |
| Anonymous donations | 9 | 10 | 6 |
| | £1,391 | 19 | 2 |

*Correction.*—In the list published on September 11th a donation from Mrs. Hersch appeared as 1s., whereas it should have been £1.

## THE NATIONAL UNION AND ATROCITIES.

The Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies urge the importance of suspending judgment upon alleged instances of fiendish cruelty and barbarity on the part of the enemies of this country until there has been an opportunity of subjecting these allegations to a careful enquiry. The supposed mutilation of a British nurse by German soldiers in Belgium, published far and wide in the Press, has already been proved to be a fabrication, although it appeared, at first sight, to be well authenticated. This should instil caution with regard to similar assertions. The Executive Committee earnestly deprecate all speech and writing tending to stir up feelings of ungoverned and indiscriminate rage and vengeance against the people of the nations with whom Great Britain is at war; and they protest, even in cases where barbarous cruelty has been undoubtedly shown by the enemy, against the desire, natural in some minds, to retaliate and inflict barbarity for barbarity. The desire to overcome evil by good, and not evil by evil, forms the basis of the non-militant policy of the National Union.

The following letter has been sent to the press:—

September 18th, 1914.

SIR,—The story of the alleged murder under circumstances of frightful cruelty of a British Nurse by German soldiers in Belgium is now shown by your article to-day, September 18th, to have been a complete fabrication. The story seemed to be well authenticated; it was widely circulated in the Press, but as we now know it is wholly untrue, the "victim" never was in Belgium at all and is happily alive and well in Yorkshire.

Does not this instance of the deliberate concoction of a horrifying story, by whom and for what purpose we know not, give emphatic support to Lord Selborne's plea for investigation in other cases before we allow our minds to form a judgment upon them? May we not do more than this, namely appeal to the Press not to give currency to similar stories without investigation?

It is surely no part of patriotism to stir up by speech or writing feelings of ungovernable rage and fury against the whole German people. Especially is this to be deprecated when we see that in some minds such stories awaken a kind of blood-lust and a desire, strange as it may seem, not to hate and eschew cruelty, but to retaliate barbarity for barbarity.

After nearly 2,000 years of Christianity we have but imperfectly learned one of its first lessons if we think we can drive out cruelty by cruelty.

(Sd.) MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.
(President of the N.U.W.S.S.)

*Telephone: BRIXTON 1852.*

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# What Our Societies are Doing.

### The Responsibilities of Women in Time of War.

The Mayor of Ealing has shown himself something of a pioneer. He held, not one town's meeting for men only, but two, one for men and one for women. The arrangements for the women's meeting, including the choice of two out of the three speakers, he placed in the hands of the representatives of the Ealing Branch of the London Society. Both they and the Mayor are to be congratulated on the result, for in spite of having only a few days notice, the beautiful large Town Hall of which Ealing boasts itself was crowded to overflowing, and many people were obliged to stand. The Mayor presided in his official robes, and the speakers were Mrs. Creighton, Baroness Orczy, and Miss Helen Ward. After a brief but excellent address from the Chair, Mrs. Creighton spoke on the subject chosen, "The Responsibilities of Women in Time of War."

In the course of her speech she made a special and most earnest appeal to the younger women of all classes to use their utmost endeavour to help and not hinder the young recruits in their duty, and to make the high standard of moral conduct which she believed each recruit had set before himself, easy by their own example and sympathy, and by the dignity and reserve of their own conduct.

Baroness Orczy devoted her speech to an able and eloquent review of the realities of war and to the causes which had led to this war in particular, and urged England to put all her best strength into the struggle.

Miss Ward emphasised the fact that this struggle can only be brought to a happy and speedy conclusion if the whole nation, women as well as men, are called upon to give of their best, and she thanked the Mayor for his statesmanlike conduct in giving full official recognition to this truth, and expressed the hope that this example set by the Borough of Ealing would be followed speedily by all the more enlightened Boroughs up and down the country.

The Mayor and Mayoress gave tea in an adjoining room to the speakers, several members of the Committee, and others. Our Ealing Branch is well represented on the local Mayor's Committee and is doing splendid work.

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### War-work in a Town Society.

What Newcastle is Doing.

"*These deeds must not be thought after these ways; so, it will make us mad.*"

Sometimes work for the Suffrage Society brings annoyance, sometimes amusement, always interest. "What was it to be this time?" wondered a helper, as she read a somewhat curt instruction to attend next morning at the office of the War Fund, "to receive applications for relief."

At first the mechanical care required to fill in the forms correctly, the questions to be asked and answered by the next worker, to settle difficulties, these mercifully helped to conceal the real meaning of the women's stories; but this was only for a time. Gradually her hand seemed to move of itself up and down the paper, filling in the details as the applicant talked; the soldier's name, his work, the number of his children, while out of each story some picture would grow more and more vivid till it seemed to burn itself into the brain.

Who is this fresh-looking woman? Is her husband a reservist? "No, Miss, it's me son's wife I've come for. He went off three week's since, and we've never heard nothing from him. Though for that matter, it's longer than that since I heard from me own husband; he's away trawling." The helper gave a quick glance up at the woman's face. It was quite serene; she had evidently seen nothing of the papers, full of news that morning of the German mines scattered through the North Sea, and of the dead who are even now being brought from the wrecked fishing-boats—the dead, and the living who will never work again.

The next applicant was elderly and well-dressed, but with the over-anxious look so often seen on women's faces. She had three sons in the army, she explained; the two eldest were married, and the home was now maintained by the youngest, a boy of twenty-one, "an ambulance man." There were three younger children, and the whole family had evidently lived for ten days on practically nothing, daily hoping to hear from the absent soldier. This however could only be learned in reply to questions; the one thought in the mother's mind seemed to be the image of her son, and the secretary laid down her pen and listened to the story of his hard work, his steadiness, his care of his mother, and the pride she felt in him. "D'ye think a quarter of them'll ever come back?" she finished up—not asking it as an empty question, but craning forward with her whole heart sick with fear of the answer. "They" for her meant only Jack. Another picture flashed over the listener's mind, of the drawing-room at home the previous night, the endless talk of the chances of war, and the calm voice of a speaker announcing that the average casualities totalled eighty per cent. It all sounded matter of fact yesterday; to-day it was unbearable. "Eighty per cent, eighty per cent."—he was an authority; he had reckoned it up. Why had she heard it? This woman was waiting for the answer; she could not give it. "If your son is in an ambulance corps," she said quietly, "he has a far better chance of coming back than many of the others." The face looked a little less strained, but only a little; another question followed—"D'ye think it's true, what they were saying in the papers, that they're cutting off the ambulance men's hands, so as they can't see to the wounded? Eh, but that 'ud be a dreadful thing to do! I've kept the bit out o' the paper. It was in on Friday." Would this woman never stop?—How many times since Friday had she read that horrible story, thinking of her son? For how many minutes had she forgotten it, since she read it first? "You mustn't believe all you read," was the quick answer, "the papers exaggerate. I have a friend just home from Germany, and she has been very well treated. We'll hope your son will soon come safely back."

Who was next? The afternoon was nearly over; there could not be many more. The next was a young woman with a little boy. The child looked fat and rosy, the woman had dark rings under her eyes, but quietly told of her small weekly allowance, and pleaded no urgent poverty. She had a child in the fever hospital, she said, coming out next week. The doctor said he would need great care, and she had come to see if she was entitled to anything more, as the child would need feeding up. "He" had gone a month ago, and since then she had "buried the little 'un," a baby of thirteen months, who had been in the hospital too. The husband had then been in barracks in the neighbourhood, but had "been that taken up with the little 'un," he had asked to stay the night with her before she died. "I thought they wouldn't think anything of it, with her just being a baby, don't you see, but they were so kind, they let him off three days altogether. It was good of them." Then he had to go on to Aldershot, "an' 'e'll be fretting-like about the other 'un, but I'll do the best I can." The Secretary filled up the form, and made a note of the address for a nurse from the "School for Mothers." Then she counted the pile of "case-papers" that lay beside her. Fifty-seven, each with its separate history, its details that meant pain and suffering and death; that meant War, from the woman's point of view.

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### Work of a Small Country Society.

An Information Exchange.

How can we make our Suffrage organisation of service to our country during the war? This was no easy problem to a small society in a large country district, where there is little poverty, no local industry, where a Labour Exchange is already established, and Relief well organised. All avenues of usefulness seemed closed to us as a body until someone made the following illuminating suggestion: Why should we not start a little Information Exchange, put it at the service of every organisation in the neighbourhood, make it a centre and clearing house, and help to prevent overlapping and co-ordinate all the activities? Here was our solution! Promptly we voted £5 from our rather slender funds, and got to work.

We were fortunate in obtaining an empty house at a nominal rent in a central position, with a splendid window for notices, and the local Council gave us a very considerable concession in the rates. Our members were circularised, the neighbouring Parish Councils notified, and our column in the weekly paper was devoted to advertising our various wants. Furniture was soon forthcoming, workers offered regular help, and the work itself *just came!* In four weeks we have dealt with nearly 500 enquiries; letters written and received amount to 365, and we are beginning to feel the assurance that our little experiment is meeting a real need in the district.

We have two guiding principles: (1) to do no Suffrage propaganda, with the result that although everyone knows the Exchange is a Suffragist organisation, we have the satisfaction of seeing the place used freely by our political opponents. (2) To inaugurate no new schemes, but to act as an Exchange *only*, offering facilities to other organisations.

Our methods are of the simplest. We keep (1) A Daily List of Callers; (2) Daily List of Enquiries; (3) Special Enquiry List of subjects requiring subsequent attention; (4) Letter Book recording letters written and received, and (5) Weekly Summary of Work. Two rooms are set apart for Belgian Relief work, and one for a Needlework Guild.

The Weekly Summary affords very varied reading. To quote a few items: Under "Labour Exchange" we find recorded a visit from the Secretary of the nearest Exchange—twelve miles away—to establish working relations with us. His list of places, wanted or vacant, appears every week in our window. Under "Remounts" comes an appeal from the Secretary of the local Hunt for men for the Remount Depôt. Without delay we sent him two good grooms, who were taken on at once. Under "Lost Friends" we find an enquirer referred to the Foreign Office department for dealing with "Friends Stranded or Lost Abroad." Under "Agriculture," a note of thousands of plants distributed to stock reservists' gardens. Under "Belgian Relief," the work of the Exchange in helping to get temporary homes together. In one case, for instance, a lady offering a house with no furniture was at once put into communication with another offering furniture but no house. Under "Relief" we note help given to soldiers' wives who were ignorant of how to obtain separation allowances.

It is all very tiny, and forms a humble little record. Yet we venture to describe it in the hope that our small experience may help Societies in a dilemma like our own; and last, perhaps not least, because it is a happiness to feel that a venture like this does actually help to establish pleasant working relations with our opponents. Instead of sitting in hostile camps, we can work together for our country. We do not forget the saying: "If you want converts, make friends."

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### Scottish Federation Hospital.

We shall need more like £1,000 than the £100 you so kindly beg for us. We want to send the Hospital abroad, officered by women doctors, with fully-trained women nurses, and with women students as dressers. We shall go under the British Red Cross if that is possible. If not, then under the French or Russian. The other day I had a letter saying the Servian Armies are badly in need of medical help.

Already offers of voluntary help have reached me, but some of the very women who could do the best work in such a Hospital cannot go without a certain salary. Further we ought to be ready to maintain the Hospital for a few months, in case the Government under which we go will not, at the beginning, undertake its maintenance. We shall have the help, in planning and equipping the Hospital, of Dr. Alice Hutchison and Mrs. Miller, who were out during the Balkan war.

We shall probably be able to fit up buildings as Hospitals, but we must have a big tent—or tents—in case of emergency. We must be fully equipped with modern surgical instruments, drugs, dressings, &c. We must be ready to deal with cholera and enteric as well as with wounds. If the Societies and members of the National Union send us more money than is needed for one Hospital, we shall not waste the money on that Hospital, but we shall equip two, or even three.

Will people kindly mark their donations, *Scottish Federation Hospital Scheme*, because the Federation is hard at work at Relief too, and I am afraid that everything that is not distinctly marked *Hospital*, will be scooped up for that! I do beg of everybody in the Federation to help the Relief Schemes, and everybody in the National Union (England, Wales, and Scotland) to help with the Hospital Scheme, for

it is the only one being organised within the National Union.

It would be a good thing if we could know soon how much money we shall have in hand to spend.

ELSIE MAUD INGLIS.
Hon. Sec. Scottish Federation.

### Croydon.

The Croydon Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. together with the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Women's League of Service, and other bodies, have started a scheme for providing meals for necessitous expectant and nursing mothers, and their children under school age during the period of distress occasioned by the war. This scheme will be worked in co-operation with the Mayor's Committee for the Relief of Distress. Centres for giving a hot mid-day meal on six days in the week are to be opened in various districts of Croydon, and a grant of 3d. per head per mother and 2d. per child is to be made by the Mayor's Committee towards defraying the cost of the dinners. Halls are being given free in every district, and the London and Suburban, and the Croydon Gas Companies are kindly providing and fixing gas cookers free of charge. The Committee consider that a sum of £200 should be sufficient to cover the initial expense of starting the centres, and to furnish a reserve fund, and they are confident of raising this sum by voluntary contributions. It is also hoped that contributions may be given of odd crockery, knives and forks, cooking utensils, &c., or flour, rice, sugar, jam, and other articles that may be used for the meals.

### Richmond Branch.

Miss Frost has been with us for some time making inquiries into the need for a Day Nursery which seems to be considerable. The Town Clerk notified the Suffrage Society that unemployment had been reported, and suggested that several women's organisations should meet to inquire into and consider how to remedy cases. A meeting was accordingly held, and a Committee of organised women formed, of which Lady Yoxall is Chairman and Mrs. Swanwick Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Tempany kindly consenting to act until Mrs. Swanwick was free.

### Nottingham.

The Nottingham Society and the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union joined forces some time ago for relief work, and together, under the title of the "Women's Suffrage Relief Committee," which works in co-operation with the City Authorities, have organised two good schemes. One is a Mothers' and Babies' Welcome, and the other an Emergency Workroom. At the Welcome, started on August 24th at Bulwell, good dinners are provided for about twenty-five expectant and nursing mothers for one penny, and for about thirty children under school age for a half-penny. All mothers are visited by a Visiting Committee. The Workroom was started on September 2nd. Here unemployed women sent from the Labour Bureau are engaged for two and a-half days per week each at 3½d. an hour—for a whole week in cases of special need. All are visited in their homes. The garments made are given to the Belgian Refugee Committee.

### Reigate.

Mrs. Auerbach, Miss Kingsbury and Miss Earle, all members of the W.S.S., in consultation with the Mayor of Reigate, were authorised to convene a preliminary meeting at the Municipal Buildings for considering the advisability of forming a War Refugee Committee for the district. Both the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector urged the desirability of all war refugees coming into the district being received in a central hostel where they would be under medical supervision for a fortnight before advantage was taken of offers of private hospitality. This view was endorsed by the Committee. The Municipality of Reigate has offered an empty house for the reception of refugees if found necessary. The Relief Committee decided that guarantees and promises of funds should be obtained and a committee formed to deal with any scheme that might be necessary. The Town Council is handing over all arrangements to Mrs. Auerbach's Committee.

### Horsham.

Last year the Horsham Society took over the premises of the Qui Vive Corps, and started a Women's Social and Literary Club, the members of which include domestic workers, shop assistants, school teachers, dressmakers, milliners, teachers at the local Pupil Teachers' Centre, milliners, and in fact, women workers of all kinds and of all ages. Naturally this Club has a Suffrage majority among its members and is largely inspired by Suffragist ideals. When war broke out a member of the Club who was also a member of the local Society wrote to the press suggesting that surplus fruit should be conserved with a view to distributing it among the poor during the winter. The Committees of the Suffrage Society and the Club unanimously decided to support the scheme, and forwarded their resolutions to the local papers. The Suffrage Society offered its rooms as a receiving place for gifts of surplus fruit, and the services of a professional, who had offered to superintend the preserving for them; and the Club members offered the labour. Sympathisers were asked to provide sugar and jars. Such a splendid response was made that the Club members were able to turn large quantities of fruit and sugar into 200 lbs. of jam, and the local Society's office became a regular jam factory. This will be distributed later through the Relief Committees and the Children's Care Committee. The Club members have the satisfaction of having rendered substantial aid to those suffering through the War without in any way competing with local labour. They made use of surplus fruit which was rotting on the trees, the high price of sugar having caused a serious slump in the local fruit market.

### East Bristol.

The W.S.S. is taking an active share in the administration of the Prince of Wales's Fund. The City is divided into twenty-three wards, and the Committee is represented on all those within its area. The shop is used as the headquarters of one ward, and Suffrage members with others sit there three days a week to receive applications. The President is on the Lord Mayor's Executive, and is taking part in the Sub-Committees for dealing with Unemployment among women and girls. The Bristol scheme is similar to the London one, of which Miss MacArthur is secretary. It aims at providing training in needlework, cookery, and other domestic arts, and giving a small maintenance grant to all who attend. It is not entering the labour market. The first centre was opened on Tuesday, September 22nd.

The opening meeting of East Bristol members and "friends" of the W.S.S. was held on September 15th, and proved so successful that at the end a resolution was passed unanimously that these Tuesday afternoon meetings should be continued. Many new "friends" came and listened with great interest to an address by Miss Geraldine Cooke, on "The Present Crisis."

### Gloucester.

The Emergency Relief of Unemployment Scheme organised by the Gloucester Branch of the National Union has been merged in the local Committee of the Queen's Fund. The Suffrage Committee has been embodied, intact, in the new Committee, together with those members of the Women's Co-operative Guild, Railway Women's Guild, N.U.W.W., British Women's Temperance Association, and Gloucester Women Citizens (a body formed by the local N.U. Society) who had been co-opted on to the Suffrage Committee. Dr. Sloan Chesser has been appointed Hon. Sec. to the new Committee, with a joint Secretary.

### South Shields.

The South Shields W.S.S. had lapsed for want of a secretary, but was on the point of re-organisation when the war broke out. Its members, therefore, are undertaking various forms of service in an individual, rather than a corporate capacity. Some are acting on Ward Sub-Committees, while others are engaged on work for the local Voluntary Aid Detachment, one member acting as assistant quartermaster.

The work of the National Union is not being allowed to pass unnoticed. Two copies of THE COMMON CAUSE are sent weekly to the Free Library, while articles are willingly inserted in the *Shields Daily Gazette*. A movement is also on foot to increase the circulation of THE COMMON CAUSE.

"This Society," writes our correspondent, "is passing through its dark days and the work of re-organisation proceeds very slowly. Still, much quiet work is being done, and it is hoped that when the war is over we shall enter the fight with greater vigour than ever, determined to take part in the final triumph."

## SOME ENCOURAGING MESSAGES.

The Hon. Treasurer has received a number of kind and appreciative letters, of which we publish a few examples:—

"Please receive P.O. 5s. for the Workroom Fund. I am a domestic servant, and I am glad to know that through the Active Service Fund, I can give this small measure of help to another worker."

"I have just received THE COMMON CAUSE for this week and came across a letter from you in which you thanked all who had subscribed to your fund for the families of soldiers and sailors who are now taking up arms to defend your country. It is with much pleasure I send 3s. towards that fund, and I hope that before long you may be the happy recipient of quite a large sum of money. I will do all I can to influence those with whom I come in contact to take an interest in Women's Suffrage with the hope that they may become active workers in the near future. I'd like our Women's Suffrage to prosper and to become a world-wide influence for good."

With 10s. donation.—"I am not sure whether the N.U. Workrooms, or the Active Service League or the Queen's Work for Women Fund require most help, but leave it to you to decide, feeling sure that with your large experience you will be able to make use of the small sum with the least possible delay. I only regret it is not a larger sum but hope to send more later on. Perhaps you would kindly publish in next week's "C.C." which branches are being best supported and which require help."

"I enclose a subscription of £1 to keep an out of work woman in work. I hope to send something each month." (With the 2nd don.)

"In sending the enclosed 10s. allow me to thank you most gratefully for the work you are doing."

"I enclose £1 1s. for the A.S. Fund, knowing that in no other hands would it be better spent."

## Suffragists on Relief Committees

### (6th List).

*We have now received reports under this heading from most of our Societies. Will those Secretaries who have not already made their reports kindly do so at once, as we shall not publish more lists after next week.*

**Cardiff.**—Miss Collin is officially representing the W.S.S. as Hon. Secretary of the Work-room for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives Association, and two other members of the N.U. are on this Committee. Mrs. Price Williams is Hon. Secretary, *pro tem.*, of the Central Advisory Distress Committee called by the Lady Mayoress. Twenty-four members of the N.U. are on the Distress Committees of various wards.

**Lampeter.**—Mrs. Davis represents the W.S.S. on the Town Council Relief Committee.

**Haywards Heath.**—A Women's Committee has been formed to work in conjunction with the War Fund Committee, and five of the members, including the President of the W.S.S., have been co-opted on to the War Fund Committee, which at first was composed entirely of men.

**Dunstable.**—The Mayoress, Mrs. C. K. Garrett, is President of the Women's Committee, on which the N.U. is well represented.

**Hitchin, Stevenage and District.**—Members of the W.S.S. are now on all the Relief Committees in the district—namely, those in Hitchin, Stevenage, Knebworth, and Welwyn. In Stevenage, the Secretary of the W.S.S., Miss Annie Villiers, is on the General Committee, and has also been elected to the Sub-Committee for Administering Relief, and the Industrial Sub-Committee, of which she was the only woman member.

**Crouch End Branch, London Society.**—Three members of the Branch are on Ward Committees, two of these being on Advisory Sub-Committees.

**Newport, I.W.**—One member of the W.S.S. and one "Friend" on the County Council Committee; one "Friend" on the Mayor of Newport's Sub-Committee; the Secretary and Treasurer of the W.S.S. are acting on behalf of the Society on the Mayoress's War Needlework Guild Committee; the President, Mrs. Hobart, is President of the Newport and District Association; one Vice-President, Lady Baring, is President of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association at Cowes; the other Vice-President is President of the Island Needlework Guild and Deputy President of the Red Cross Society.

**Horsham.**—A large proportion of the workers on the local Relief Committees and the S.S.F.A. are women, many of them being members of the local W.S.S.

**Hale (Cheshire).**—Miss William Tattersall is Vice-Chairman of the Hale Relief Committee.

**South Shields.**—On the Executive Committee there are eleven women, of whom three are Suffragists, one being a member of the N.U. Four women, including a member of the N.U., are acting as Ward Secretaries.

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single crown, 20 inches by 15, printed in scarlet on white ground. The Bugler Girl is on right-hand side, leaving space on left for announcements of news likely to be of local interest. **Price 1d. each.** Postage paid on orders of 1 doz. and upwards.—Write Manager, "C.C." Office, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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*Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.*

### SUFFRACE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (N.U.W.S.S.) Clearing House for Voluntary Workers and Information Bureau, 58, Victoria-street, S.W. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Fund urgently needed by the Treasurer, Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

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WANTED, Assistant at Maitland Sanatorium, to teach simple handicrafts, chiefly embroidery, to patients; Board and lodging and, after training, salary at £25 a year.—Miss S. I. Welsh, Maitland School of Needlecraft, Peppard Common, Henley-on-Thames.

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CO-EDUCATION.—High Wycombe Godstowe Preparatory School. Girls and boys prepared for public schools, with at the same time natural home surroundings, open-air life, handicrafts, and hobbies. School may be seen at any time by those interested in modern education.—Head Mistress, Mrs. George Scott. For Prospectus apply to Secretary.

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MISS COURTAULD intends taking a limited number of lady pupils on her farm of 350 acres, after September next; special opportunities of learning commercial fruit-growing under experienced foreman, on most approved methods.—Knight's Farm, Colne Engaine, Earl's Colne, Essex.

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.—A reliable medium for efficient governesses, companions, housekeepers, nurses. Recommended hotels, pensions, families, schools receiving guests and students. Business profits for war charities.—199, Victoria-st., London.

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**MARY McLACHLAN, Typist, 4, Chapel Walk, Manchester.**

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**LACE cleaned, mended, transferred. Many testimonials.—Beatrice, "C.C." Office. (No postcards.)**

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MORA PUCKLE will make up customers' own material during September in order to keep her staff of workers together; embroidered dresses, coats and djibbahs, tailored coats and skirts.—39c Oxford-st. (opposite "Times'" Book Club), entrance Gilbert-st.

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**BUSINESS AS USUAL during the present War Crisis.—Second-hand clothing wanted to buy for cash. Costumes, skirts, boots, underclothing, curtains, gents' suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description. Parcel sent will be valued and value sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby-st., Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.**

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**ARTHUR'S STORES,**
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GENERAL PROVISIONS. HIGH-CLASS CONFECTIONERY.
All Cakes and Pastries of finest ingredients by own Bakers

**TABLE POULTRY, EGGS, FRUIT.**—Best quality; reasonable prices; carriage paid.—**Misses DAVIES & JANES, Reed End Farm, Royston, Herts.**

**THE WOMEN'S TEA COMPANY,**
180, Tower Bridge Road, S.E.
Supply TEA, CHOCOLATE, etc., at wholesale prices for BAZAARS AND SHOPS.

### TO LET.

FURNISHED FLAT, on Cheyne Walk, river view, 1st floor; 3 rooms, bath, telephone; from Nov. 1st, 30s. weekly; Suffragist owner out of work; must sell up if unable to let; readers please view this before ordinary agents' recommendations.—Apply "V.," c/o COMMON CAUSE.

KENSINGTON.—Large front Bed-sitting room; gas; bath.—7, Stratford-rd.

TO LET, small furnished flat, four rooms; light, airy; top of nice house; £1 weekly.—Miss Bobby, 73, Elgin-avenue, W.

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BROOKLYN PRIVATE HOTEL.—Earl's Court Square (Warwick Road corner), finest centre all parts; 12 minutes Piccadilly; quiet, separate tables; strictly inclusive terms from 5s. 6d. day, 35s. weekly, B. and B. 4s. 6d.; private sitting-rooms, 25s.; electric light throughout; garage. Tel: 344 Western.

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HOSTEL for lady workers, students, and others; central and convenient for all parts; terms moderate.—Miss Sullivan, 59, Albany-st., Regent's-pk. (Portland-rd. Station, W.)

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*Name* _____
(Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title.)

*Address* _____

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